

Amendments to the Specification:

On page 1, starting at line 10, please replace the CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION section with the following:

This invention is related to commonly-assigned patent applications: "Unified Channel Access for Supporting Quality of Service (QoS) in a Local Area Network", filed September 28, 2001, serial number 09/677,164, now U.S. Patent Number 7,058,074, attorney docket number TI-32159, and "Shared Communications Channel Access In an Overlapping Coverage Environment", filed September 28, 2001, serial number 09/966,393, now abandoned, attorney docket number TI-32700. These applications are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.